under trials and two were convicts. A massive hunt was launched to apprehend these escapees. An enquiry was ordered by Lt. Governor, Delhi into the matter.

(b) Eight jail officials were arrested and suspended from service on grounds of conspiracy which resulted in facilitating the escape of Charles Sobhraj.

(c) Government have taken, *inter alia* the following steps to esnsure greater safety in the Tihar Jail.

(i) A full time I. G. (Prisons), a senior Police Officer has been appointed who will have his office on the Tihar Jail premises for more effective supervision.

(ii) Additional staff of 238 has been sanctioned with a view to providing more constant vigilance at all lev ls

(iii) 6 additional vehicles have been sanctioned with a view to providing greater mobility among the supervisory staff to enable them to attend to emergent situations , as also to provide for the more secure transit of prisoners to courts and hospitals.

(iv) The existing security forces deployed in and around the Tihar Jail have been significantly augmented.

(v) The flow of visitors and vehicles into the complex is regulated through restricted points. No vehicle is permitted beyond certain limits.

(vi) Extra guard is deployed to keep a vigil over visitors as well as jail inmates before and after inteviews.

(d) and (e) The matter is under investigation.

Prospects of peaceful solution of Sri Lanka Problem

339. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :

SHRI .K. VASUDEVA PANICKER :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the present prospecets of a peaceful political solution of the ethnic problem of Tamilans of Indian origin in Sri Lanka ;

(b) whether Government have any specific and concrete proposals for solution of the problem: and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) The main proplem facing the Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, as distinct from Sri Lanka Tamils has been the probelm of statelessness. This was sought to be tackled through the 1964 and 1974 Agreements under which 600,000 were to be granted Indian citizenship and repatriated to India and 375,000 were to be granted Sri Lanka citizenship. The Agreements were in effect for 17 years *i. e.* upto 30-10-1981. The residual problem of statelessness that had arisen on account of short-fall in application for Indian Citizenship has been dealt with through an understanding arrived at between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on Janurary 15, 1986. According to this understanding Sri Lanka Government will grant citizenship to the residual number of Stateless persons (estimated at 94,000 accountable persons and their natural increase), thus bringing to an end the problem of Statelessness of the Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka